

## **Annex 5: Informal Consultation of the businesses fronting the proposed Cecil Square site**

1. Dear Katherine

Thank you for your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> June that was received at our office premises.

I understand that the council is proposing relocating the market from the High Street, and that this is primarily because the market itself blocks the sight line to the shop fronts, and is considered to thereby reduce foot fall. I have to say that this would be true in terms of all the office premises in Cecil Square.

As you appreciate, the market was originally trialled in Cecil Square. Clearly, this location was not suited to the market and hence it was removed to the High Street. I am sure that this was properly part of the local plan to emphasise the High Street. Cecil Square houses a key business sector in the town, and is not configured as a shopping area.

I am somewhat dismayed to receive this informal suggestion that the market could again be considered for a return to Cecil Square. I am very clear that this would be a retrogressive step, and indeed consider it damaging for business. For ease of reference, I have set out my key objections below:

- The presence of the market in front of business premises makes it much more difficult for clients both to see and to access the offices. This limitation on business is not acceptable.
- The setting of the market in Cecil Square significantly limits the most convenient parking for the business located there. In reality, it takes out 20% of the business week.
- Although I am sure you will advise of a clean street and working environment, I would remind you of the significant amount of rubbish present each week on the conclusion of the market. This does not present a good business front, and again is damaging.
- There is considerable noise from the market, both from the stall holders calling out their wares, and indeed from the shopping public. This is not conducive to a proper work environment with offices that front Square, and nor does it support focussed and considered meetings or decisions from clients. It is at best obtrusive, and more often obstructive
- The burger van smell is significant, and is a similarly poor factor in a working environment.

I am of course more than happy to meet with you and expand on these concerns. If this would be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me.

[Cecil Square, Margate, Kent CT9 1BD](#)